

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

----- X
ARTURO RIVERA,

Plaintiff,

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, DEPARTMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MARTIN F. HORN, WARDEN
LIONEL LORQUET, CORRECTION OFFICER ORTIZ,
CORRECTION OFFICER COOPER, CORRECTION
OFFICER JOSEPH FINA and JOHN DOE
CORRECTION OFFICERS #1,

Defendants.
----- X

**ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S
FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT**

07 CV 9632 (NRB) (RLE)

Jury Trial Demanded

Defendants THE CITY OF NEW YORK, MARTIN F. HORN, CORRECTION OFFICER ORTIZ and CORRECTION OFFICER COOPER by their attorney, Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, for their answer to plaintiff's First Amended Complaint ("complaint"), respectfully allege, upon information and belief, as follows:¹

1. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "1" of the complaint, except admit that plaintiff purports to proceed as stated therein.
2. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "2" of the complaint.
3. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "3" of the complaint, except admit that plaintiff purports to seek damages as stated therein.
4. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "4" of the complaint, except admit that plaintiff purports to bring this action and invoke the Court's as stated therein.

¹ Upon information and belief, the individuals identified in the caption of the complaint as "Warden Lionel Lorquet" and "Correction Officer Fina" have not been served with copy of the Summons and Complaint nor have they requested representation from the Office of Corporation Counsel.

5. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “5” of the complaint.

6. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “6” of the complaint, except admit that plaintiff purports to base venue as stated therein.

7. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “7” of the complaint.

8. Admit the allegations set forth in paragraph “8” of the complaint.

9. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “9” of the complaint, except admit that Martin Horn is the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction and that plaintiff purports to sue Commissioner Horn in his individual capacity as stated therein.

10. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “10” of the complaint, except admit that Lionel Lorquet was employed as the Warden of Otis Bantum Correctional Center (“OBCC”), and that plaintiff purports to sue Warden Lorquet in his individual capacity as stated therein.

11. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “11” of the complaint, except admit that Correction Officer Patrick Cooper is employed as a Correction Officer at OBCC, and Correction Officer Manuel Ortiz was employed as a Correction Officer at OBCC on August 2, 2006.

12. The allegations set forth in paragraph “12” of the complaint are conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact and accordingly, no response is required.

13. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “13” of the complaint, except admit that a document purporting to be a Notice of Claim was received by the New York

City Office of the Comptroller on or about September 13, 2006 and the claim has not been paid.

14. Denies the allegations set forth in paragraph "14" of the complaint, except admits that there is a grievance procedure at Rikers Island and states that the allegations concerning whether inmate assaults are grievable constitutes a conclusion of law rather than an averment of fact and accordingly, no response is required.

15. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph "15" of the complaint, except admit that plaintiff was incarcerated at the OBCC on August 2, 2006.

16. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "16" of the complaint.

17. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "17" of the complaint.

18. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "18" of the complaint.

19. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "19" of the complaint.

20. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "20" of the complaint, including all subparagraphs.

21. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "21" of the complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" to "20" inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

22. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "22" of the complaint.

23. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "23" of the complaint.

24. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "24" of the complaint.

25. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "25" of the complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" to "24" inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

26. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "26" of the complaint.

27. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "27" of the complaint.

28. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "28" of the complaint.

29. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "29" of the complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" to "28" inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

30. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "30" of the complaint.

31. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "31" of the complaint.

32. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "32" of the complaint.

33. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "33" of the complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" to "32" inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein

34. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "34" of the complaint.

35. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "35" of the complaint.

36. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "36" of the complaint.

37. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "37" of the complaint

38. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "38" of the complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" to "37" inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein

39. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "39" of the complaint.

40. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "40" of the complaint.

41. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "41" of the complaint.

42. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "42" of the complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" to "41" inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein

43. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "43" of the complaint.

44. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "44" of the complaint.

45. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "45" of the complaint.

46. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "46" of the complaint.

47. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "47" of the complaint.

48. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "48" of the complaint.

49. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "49" of the complaint.

50. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "50" of the complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" to "49" inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

51. Paragraph "51" of the complaint contains conclusions of law rather than averments of fact, and accordingly, requires no response.

52. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "52" of the complaint.

53. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "53" of the complaint.

54. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "54" of the complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" to "53" inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

55. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "55" of the complaint.

56. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “56” of complaint.

AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

57. The complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

58. Defendants have not violated any rights, privileges or immunities secured to plaintiff by the Constitution or laws of the United States or the State of New York or any political subdivision thereof, nor have defendants violated any act of Congress providing for the protection of civil rights.

AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

59. Any injury alleged to have been sustained resulted from plaintiff's own culpable or negligent conduct and/or the intervening conduct of third parties, and was not the proximate result of any act of the defendants.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

60. At all times relevant to the acts alleged in the complaint, the duties and functions of defendant City's officials entailed the reasonable exercise of proper and lawful discretion. Therefore, defendant City of New York is entitled to governmental immunity from liability.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

61. Plaintiff cannot obtain punitive damages as against the City of New York.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

62. At all times relevant to the acts alleged in the complaint, defendants Horn, Cooper and Ortiz acted reasonably in the proper and lawful exercise of their discretion.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

63. Plaintiff's claims may be barred, in whole or in part, because plaintiff failed to comply with all conditions precedent to suit.

AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

64. Plaintiff's claims may be barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrines of res judicata and/or collateral estoppel.

AS AND FOR A NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

65. Defendant Horn had no personal involvement in the allegations alleged in the complaint.

AS AND FOR A TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

66. Defendants Horn, Cooper and Ortiz have not violated any clearly established constitutional or statutory right of which a reasonable person would have known and therefore are protected by qualified immunity.

AS AND FOR A ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

67. Plaintiff provoked any incident.

AS AND FOR A TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

68. To the extent that plaintiff asserts state law claims against the defendants, such claims should be barred by the doctrine of immunity for judgmental errors in the exercise of governmental functions.

AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

69. Plaintiff may have failed to exhaust his administrative remedies as required by the Prison Litigation Reform Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a).

AS AND FOR A FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

70. Plaintiff's claim for money damages may be barred by the Prison Litigation Reform Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(e).

AS AND FOR A FIFTEEN AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

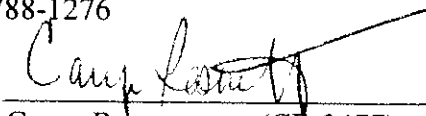
71. Plaintiff's claims may be barred in part by the applicable period of limitations.

WHEREFORE, defendants City of New York, Martin Horn, Correction Officer Cooper and Correction Officer Ortiz request judgment dismissing the complaint in its entirety, together with the costs and disbursements of this action, and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York
May 23, 2008

MICHAEL A. CARDOZO
Corporation Counsel of the City of New York
Attorney for Defendants
100 Church Street, Rm. 3-221
New York, New York 10007
(212) 788-1276

By:


Caryn Rosencrantz (CR 3477)
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Special Federal Litigation

TO: BY FIRST CLASS MAIL and ECF
Nicole Bellina, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
71 Nevins Street
Brooklyn, New York 11217

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LIONEL LORQUET, CORRECTION OFFICER
ORTIZ, CORRECTION OFFICER COOPER,
CORRECTION OFFICER JOSEPH FINA and
JOHN DOE CORRECTION OFFICERS #1,

Defendants.

**ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S FIRST
AMENDED COMPLAINT**

MICHAEL A. CARDOZO

*Corporation Counsel of the City of New York
Attorney for Defendants
100 Church Street
New York, N.Y. 10007*

*Of Counsel: Caryn Rosencrantz
Tel: (212) 788-1276
NYCLIS No.*

Due and timely service is hereby admitted.

New York, N.Y., 200.....

..... Esq.

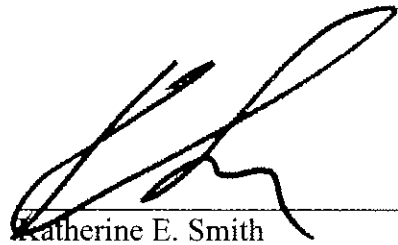
Attorney for

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

Katherine E. Smith declares, under penalty of perjury and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the following is true and correct: On May 23, 2008, I caused to be served the annexed **ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT** upon the following plaintiff's counsel herein, by depositing a copy of same, enclosed in a first class, postpaid properly addressed wrapper in a post office/official depository located at 100 Church Street, in the Borough of Manhattan, City of New York, directed to plaintiff's counsel at the address set forth below, being plaintiff's counsel's business address:

Nicole Bellina, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
71 Nevins Street
Brooklyn, New York 11217

Dated: New York, New York
May 23, 2008


Katherine E. Smith